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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8 and 10-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 8, 15, 16, and 18, and cancels Claim 9.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 22-27 are allowed.

Claims 8-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al. (U.S. 6,762,925). Claim 9 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 8 and 10-21.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite:

A monolithic ceramic electronic component comprising:
a first element portion including a laminate of ceramic layers and internal electrodes; and
a second element portion including a laminate of ceramic layers and internal electrodes; wherein
at least the first element portion and the second element portion are stacked to define a ceramic laminate, and a porosity of the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different from a porosity of the ceramic layers of the second element portion; and
the first element portion includes a first coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, the second element portion includes a second coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, and the first coil and the second coil are electrically connected to define an inductor. (emphasis added)

With the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's Claim 8, including the features of "at least the first element portion and the second element portion are stacked to define a ceramic laminate, and a porosity of the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different from a porosity of the ceramic layers of the second element portion" and "the first element portion includes a first coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, the second element portion includes a second coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, and the first coil and the second coil are electrically connected to define an inductor," Applicant has been able to provide a monolithic ceramic electronic component which does not require an intermediate layer and in

which the dielectric constant and the permeability are less limited (see, for example, the last full paragraph on page 2 of the originally filed specification).

The Examiner alleged that Uchida et al. teaches all of the features recited in Applicant's Claim 8, including a first element portion 30 and a second element portion 31, wherein "a porosity of the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different from a porosity of the ceramic layers of the second element portion (figure 5)." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant's Claim 8 has been amended to recite the features of "the first element portion includes a first coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, the second element portion includes a second coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, and the first coil and the second coil are electrically connected to define an inductor." Support for these features is found, for example, in originally filed Claim 9.

Lines 12 and 13 of col. 12 of Uchida et al. specifically disclose that elements 30 and 31 are a through electrode and a ground electrode, respectively, which "constitute a capacitor 33." In other words, neither of elements 30 and 31 of Uchida et al., which the Examiner alleged correspond to the first element portion and the second element portion recited in Applicant's Claim 8, includes a coil defined by internal electrodes. Furthermore, Uchida et al. fails to teach or suggest that the elements 30 and 31 could or should be electrically connected to define an inductor.

In addition, each of elements 30 and 31 of Uchida et al. is disposed on a dielectric layer 23. Uchida et al. fails to teach or suggest anything at all about the relative porosities of the dielectric layers 23 on which the elements 30 and 31 are disposed, and certainly fails to teach or suggest that the porosity of the dielectric layer 23 on which the element 30 is disposed is different from the porosity of the dielectric layer 23 on which the element 31 is disposed.

Thus, Uchida et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest the features of "at least the first element portion and the second element portion are stacked to define a ceramic laminate, and a porosity of the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different

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from a porosity of the ceramic layers of the second element portion" and "the first element portion includes a first coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, the second element portion includes a second coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, and the first coil and the second coil are electrically connected to define an inductor" as recited in Applicant's Claim 8.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 8 is allowable. Claims 10-21 depend upon Claim 8, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 8 is allowable. Claim 22-27 are allowed, as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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